

An Exploration of Sleep, Death & Survival



Hypnos & Thanatos:

“Sleep and his Half-brother Death”

By J.W. Waterhouse, 1874.

(it was painted after both his younger brothers died of tuberculosis).

Hypnos lived in a cave, whose mansion did not see the rising nor setting of the sun, nor did it see the "lightsome noon." At the entrance were a number of poppies and other hypnotic plants. His dwelling had no door or gate so that he might not be awakened by the creaking of hinges. The river Lethe, in the underworld, is known as the river of forgetfulness, and flows through his cave. Hypnos lived next to his twin brother, Thanatos (Θάνατος, "death personified") in the underworld. Hypnos' mother was Nyx (Νύξ, "Night"), the deity of Night, and his father was Erebus, the deity of Darkness.

Hypnos (God of Sleep) had 2 brothers (the Oneiroi "ὄνειροι, 3 Dreams): Thanatos (Death) & Geras (Old Age).